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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B6-0000/2005

pursuant to Rule 108(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by Nikolaos Sifunakis, Chairman

on behalf of the Committee on Culture and Education

on The Olympic Truce – Turin Winter Olympics 2006

European Parliament resolution on The Olympic Truce – Turin Winter Olympics 2006

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 1 April 2004 on the Olympic Truce¹,
 - having regard to the resolution adopted unanimously by the UN in 2003 entitled ‘Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideals’,
 - having regard to the inclusion in the Millennium Declaration of an appeal for the observance of the Olympic Truce,
 - having regard to the joint statement issued in July 2005 by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Organising Committee for the Turin Games and the Italian authorities with a commitment to the Olympic Truce, to the security of the Games and to a large programme of events enabling people across the world to reflect upon and promote the Olympic Truce and its values,
 - having regard to Rule 108(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the 20th Winter Olympics and Paralympics will take place in Europe, in Turin from 10 to 26 February 2006,
- B. whereas the idea of the Olympic Truce (*ekecheiria*) dates back to an ancient Hellenic tradition: in keeping with this tradition all hostilities would cease during the Olympic Games,
- C. whereas in the modern era, the Olympic Truce expresses mankind’s wish to build a world based on the principles of fair competition, humanity, fraternity and tolerance, thus forming a bridge between ancient tradition and the major challenges of the contemporary world such as the preservation of global peace, dialogue between different cultures, and mutual understanding and cooperation between peoples,
- D. whereas the Olympic Truce is symbolised by the dove of peace with the traditional Olympic flame in the background: the dove represents one of the ideals of the Olympic movement – to use sport to build a peaceful and better world – and the flame symbolises the warmth that the Olympics brings to all the people of the world,
- E. whereas the Olympic Games, Winter Olympics and Paralympics, with young people as pioneers, preserve the sporting ideal and reflect the spirit of civilisation and cultural heritage, and whereas the Olympic Truce is a sign of respect for the ideal of peaceful coexistence between peoples,
1. Welcomes the work of the United Nations Task Force on Sport for Development and

¹ OJ C 103 E, 29.4.2004, p. 816.

Peace, which reflects the ideals of the Olympic Truce in concrete work around the globe;

2. Welcomes the efforts by the United Nations to secure a ceasefire in areas where there is conflict, and urges the countries concerned to observe a truce during the Olympic Games;
3. Urges the Commission to place a greater emphasis on the potential of sport in its development and peacekeeping work and in the achievement of the Millennium Goals;
4. Welcomes the work of the International Olympic Truce Foundation and believes that the European Union should be involved in this work,
5. Asks the Council to urge all Member States, candidate and neighbouring countries, and all the countries participating in the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Turin, to respect and observe the Olympic Truce during the Games and beyond;
6. Urges the Council and the Commission to support the IOC in its efforts to promote peace and understanding through sport;
7. Reminds the Council of its commitment to consider this matter every two years and to reconfirm its support for the Olympic Truce for the 2006 Turin Games;
8. Urges the Council and Commission to assist in the observance of the Truce during the Winter Olympics in Turin by holding a special event, possibly at the Parliament;
9. Pledges to exercise its best efforts to ensure observance of the Olympic Truce and the attainment of world peace;
10. Calls on the Council and Commission to send a delegation to Turin for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2006 Winter Olympics;
11. Calls on the Council and Commission to urge the IOC and the Organising Committee of the Turin Games to agree that the EU flag should be flown in prominent parts of the organising city and at the sports venues where the Games will take place;
12. Believes that the Olympic Truce is about more than a call for a brief cessation of conflicts and, in this regard, welcomes the interfaith and educational initiatives in Turin, Jerusalem and Sarajevo;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Member States, the countries participating in the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Turin, and to the United Nations and the International Olympic Committee.